

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER
MAR 01 2005

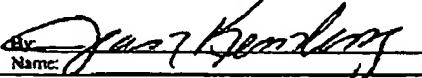
S/N 09/909,488

PATENTIN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Harapanahalli S. Muralidhara et al. Examiner: Ana M. Fortuna
Serial No.: 09/909,488 Group Art Unit: 1723
Filed: July 20, 2001 Docket No.: 12897.10US01
Title: NANO FILTRATION WATER-SOFTENING APPARATUS AND METHOD

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March 1, 2005.

By: 
Name: Jay K. Hendry

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c))

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

With regard to the above-identified application, the items of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are brought to the attention of the Examiner.

This statement should be considered because it is submitted after the mailing date of a first Office Action on-the-merits or a first Office Action after filing a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 or a CPA under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d), but before the mailing date of: i) a final action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113; ii) a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311; or iii) an action that otherwise closes prosecution on the application. Please charge Deposit Account No. 13-2725 the amount of \$180.00 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) for consideration of the items listed on the enclosed Form 1449.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2), a copy of each document or other information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 is provided.

No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicants do not represent that a reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is

See processed

intended. With regard to Russian reference RU 2 060 804 C1, Applicants note that this reference appears inapplicable on numerous grounds, including, but not limited to, to disclosure in the reference of water recovery rates and ion rejection rates are outside the scope of the claimed invention.

Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form 1449, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.



Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Date: March 1, 2005

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "D. Pauly", written over a horizontal line.

Daniel M. Pauly
Reg. No. 40,123